



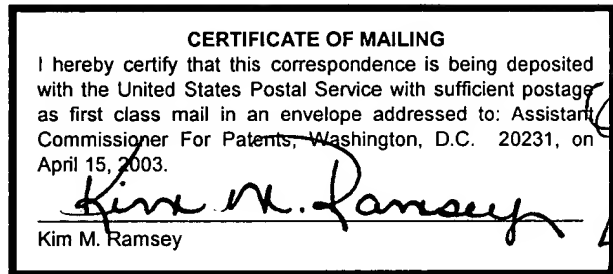
RECEIVED
APR 25 2003
TC 1700

Docket No. 20205

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Tatarka, et al.
Appl. No.: 09/611,192
Filed: July 6, 2000
For: Ionomeric, Puncture Resistant,
Thermoplastic Patch Bag, Film, Blend
and Process



Group Art Unit: 1772
Examiner: Sandra M. Nolan

April 15, 2003

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

Sir:

In reply to the Official Action dated October 15, 2002, for which a three (3) month extension of time is requested, making the deadline for reply April 15, 2003, please amend the application as follows.

In The Title:

Please replace the title, Page 1, with the following:

IONOMERIC, PUNCTURE RESISTANT, THERMOPLASTIC BAG

In The Specification:

Please amend the Abstract of the Disclosure, beginning on Page 31, as follows:

A bag combination of: (a) a flexible, thermoplastic, biaxially stretched, heat shrinkable film bag having at least one blend layer comprising: 45 to 85 weight % of a first polymer (of 55 to 98°C m.p.) comprising a copolymer of ethylene and hexene-1 or octene-1; 5 to 35 weight % of a second ethylene α -olefin copolymer; (115 to 128°C m.p.); and 10 to 50 weight % of a third polymer (60 to 110°C m.p.) comprising an unmodified or anhydride-modified copolymer of ethylene and a vinyl ester, acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, or an alkyl

Handwritten signature/initials

1192
07
00000069 502023
54.00 CH
04/23/2003 CCHAU1
01 FC:1202

acrylate; where the first and second polymers combined are ≥ 50 weight % based upon the three polymer blend; and the bag film has a total energy absorption ≥ 0.70 Joule and a shrinkage value at $90^{\circ}\text{C} \geq 50\%$ (M.D. or T.D.); and (b) a the bag and covering $\geq 25\%$ of the bag's surface the film comprising:

5 to 20 weight % of (i) an ionomer; and

5 to 95 weight percent of (ii) a copolymer of ethylene and at least one C_6 to C_8 α -olefin, 55 to 95°C m.p. and $\overline{M}_w/\overline{M}_n$ of 1.5 to 3.5);

0 to 90 weight % each of (iii) a copolymer of ethylene and at least one C_4 to C_8 α -olefin, (100 to 125°C m.p.); (iv) a copolymer of propylene and ethylene or butene-1 (105 to 145°C m.p.), and

(v) a copolymer of ethylene and hexene-1, octene-1 and/or decene-1, (125 to 135°C m.p.); and polymers (ii), (iii), (iv), and (v) have a combined weight % of ≥ 80 weight % based upon the total weight of polymers (i), (ii), (iii), (iv), and (v); and the film and bag laminate has a total energy absorption of ≥ 1.2 Joule.

In The Claims:

Please amend Claim 1 as follows:

1. (Amended) A patch bag comprising:

(a) a bag having an inside surface and an outside surface, said bag comprising a flexible, thermoplastic, biaxially stretched, heat shrinkable film having at least one layer comprising a blend of at least three copolymers comprising:

45 to 85 weight percent of a first polymer having a melting point of from 55 to 98°C comprising at least one copolymer of ethylene and at least one comonomer selected from the group of hexene-1 and octene-1;

5 to 35 weight percent of a second polymer having a melting point of from 115 to 128°C comprising at least one copolymer of ethylene and at least one α -olefin; and